Warm greetings to all!
Hoping this newsletter finds everyone well. As always, the ICA continues to grow and projects related to cluttering continue to be completed around the world. In this edition of the newsletter, we have new members to welcome and awareness activities around the world to report.

I am hoping that by now you have heard about and are getting ready for the first ever Online Cluttering Conference. Thanks to the initiatives of Judy Kuster, founder and coordinator of the stuttering online conference, cluttering will finally have its own space for online discussion. This will be a freely available space where consumers, clinicians, researchers, and those interested in cluttering can find information and have valuable discussions about the topic of cluttering. We at the ICA are so excited that people from around the world will be able to interact online. I am certain that many new projects and ideas will emerge from this important event. See inside the newsletter for more specific details.

I would like to leave my message short to give you time to read the rest of the newsletter. So I will close by saying please enjoy the newsletter, spread the word about the online conference (available April 14 to May 5 on www.stutteringhomepage.com), and join us soon online for the conference! We look forward to hearing from each and every one of you.

Warm regards, Kathy
Exacerbation of Pre-morbid Cluttering after Brain Damage- Case Reports and Treatment Suggestion

Background
Cluttering is a speech and communication disorder which is still far from achieving a consensus about its definition and origin. Some of the literature relates to Cluttering as a Fluency disorder which is characterized mainly by a rate of speech that is perceived to be abnormally rapid and irregular. Additional characteristics include: excessive number of disfluencies which are not typical of Stuttering, a frequent placement of pauses and use of prosodic patterns that do not conform to syntactic and semantic constraints, and inappropriate degrees of coarticulation (1). However, other authors refer to Cluttering as a verbal manifestation of a "Central language imbalance"(2) which includes a long list of Communication, Cognition, learning and behavioral symptoms (3,4). Most of the literature concentrates on Developmental Cluttering, and little has been published about Cluttering as an acquired disorder following brain damage (5,6). Various locations of damage in the Central Nerve System were suggested as an etiology of Cluttering (7). In these two case reports, pre-morbid Cluttering was exacerbated due to acquired brain damage.

Case reports
In these two cases, the patients suffered from different types of brain damage. Case histories revealed pre-morbid Cluttering. A speech and language diagnosis performed at our department revealed that one patient had relatively preserved language capacities, while the other had severe difficulties with initiating communication, word retrieval, language comprehension and production of verbal and written language. Both patients exhibited severely Cluttered speech accompanied by severely impaired pragmatic skills. Pragmatic deficiencies are described in Daly's "Predictive Cluttering Inventory"(4) and include: lack of effective self-monitoring skills, lack of awareness of one’s own communication problems, poor social communication skills, inappropriate turn taking, failure to recognize or respond to listener’s feedback, failure to repair or correct communication breakdowns and compulsive talking.

Treatment
Following an assumption that the deficiency of the pragmatic component in Cluttering was exacerbated by the brain damage, specific therapy methods were used. The main targets of treatment
were 1) to increase awareness, and 2) to improve pragmatic skills. Other more traditional targets associated with Cluttering treatment (increasing fluency, reducing speech rate and addressing articulation) were also used, but were secondary. The therapy took into consideration the complexity of the cognitive and behavioral damage demonstrated by the patients.

**Results**

Both of the patients improved the awareness to their speech and pragmatic errors. The patients had moderate improvement of their speech intelligibility and acquired more appropriate conversational skills. However, they have difficulties in generalizing and monitoring those skills at all of the communication conditions.

**Conclusions**

In the case of patients who Clutter and suffer from acquired brain damage, Speech therapy which combines pragmatic aims with the more traditional ones could be beneficial.

**References**


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**Committee Reports**

**Website Committee**

The translation process of ICA website materials proceeds steadily. A number of translations of the “Predictive Cluttering Inventory” (PCI; Daly, 2006) were added this week. Judith Bona provided a Hungarian translation, while Laura Busto translated the PCI into Spanish. This means that the PCI is now available in 7 different languages. It will be interesting to be able to compare scores obtained with the PCI across different languages and to analyze if responses to individual items are correlated. Clearly, the PCI is of great interest internationally and confirms the need for diagnostic and assessment related materials regarding cluttering. The ICA promotes this type of international service and hopes that even more translations can be provided by volunteers from yet other countries. It would seem that translations of the PCI into Chinese, Russian, and Arabic would be particularly helpful at this point.
COUNTRIES REPRESENTED IN THE ICA

ICA INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

A complete listing of representatives is available on the ICA website

Argentina: Beatriz Bian de Touzet
Australia: Susan Block
Bulgaria: Miglena Simonska
Belgium: John Van Borsel
Canada: Carla Di Domenicantonio
China: Steve An Xue
Denmark: Gudrun Østergaard
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United Kingdom: David Ward
USA: Isabella Reichel
IT'S ABOUT TIME ....
to recognize cluttering! The first online cluttering conference will open on April 14, 2010, linked to the top of The Stuttering Home Page:
http://www.stutteringhomepage.com
The conference will be FREELY available and open to the public, especially anyone interested in cluttering. Conference presentations are written in a reader-friendly style for an international audience, by individuals and families who experience cluttering as well as by researchers, professors, and clinicians. Each presentation will have a threaded discussion attached where participants can respond to the papers, making comments or asking questions of the presenters. A special feature (The Prof is In) will provide opportunity for clinicians, consumers and their families to ask questions of several experts in cluttering. The threaded discussions will be "open" from April 14 -May 5.
The conference features leading professionals who treat, teach, research, and publish about cluttering from Europe and the United States and also persons who know cluttering from a personal perspective (people who clutter and their family members).
Some of the features of the conference will include video and audio examples of cluttering, a "clinical nugget" section with ideas for treating cluttering, reports of recent research, an opportunity to debate the definition of cluttering and help choose a logo for the International Cluttering Association, as well as presentations on the diagnosis and treatment of cluttering.
Although the entire conference is freely available, it is also available for 1.5 CEUs (15 hours) or 1 university credit through Minnesota State University, Mankato. Those wishing to take the conference for CEUs or credit should contact Carol Myhre (carol.myhre@mnsu.edu) to learn of the requirements and how to register for the summer session at Minnesota State University.

Judy
In one of the Southwest's premier resort destinations, Scottsdale, Arizona, Kathy Sca-ler Scott, Ellen Bennett and Jonathan Wong had the opportunity to spread awareness about Cluttering within the NSA community. With a large roomful of mostly speech-language pathologists, we did an hour long presentation of the clinical, the treatment and the parental/consumer aspects of Cluttering. It was well received as we needed much more time to respond to all the positive feedback from the audience.

It was an eye opener to hear speech-language pathologists say that they lacked the training and yearned for more education on this communication disorder. It was common to hear that the total time spent on Cluttering within a typical speech pathology curriculum was about 45 minutes. We talked about the frustrations of getting a cluttering diagnosis, and about getting help and resources for Cluttering from a parent’s perspective. Many speech-language pathologists commented that they needed to be accountable as the first line of defense for diagnosing this disorder. Communication is needed with other professionals from the various medical fields to identify symptoms at earlier stages in life. Speech-language pathologists and veterans of related professions recognized that more education within the medical community was desperately needed.

We’ve learned that awareness for Cluttering is spreading and our continued support is needed to ensure its growth. For each person that we inform, it has the potential to grow exponentially. We had felt a great sense of accomplishment that we were able to reach out further into the community. We look forward to NSA’s 2010 Conference in Cleveland, OH and hope to see you there.

Jonathan Wong, Chair
ICA Family Issues Committee
The ICA membership is now up to 155. We are continuing to grow! Do you know anyone with an interest in Cluttering? If so, ask them to contact Ellen Bennett, chair of the ICA Membership Committee, at:

elanouette@tampabay.rr.com

Cluttering Research in Germany


Thanks Katrin, for helping spread the word about cluttering!

Please let us know the good works you and others are doing in your country—email reports to: Charley Adams, ICA Newsletter Editor at charley@sc.edu